United Nations A/73/526

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 November 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 57

Comprehensive review of special political missions

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of special political missions" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. The Fourth Committee considered the item at its 21st and 23rd meetings, on 5 and 8 November 2018. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions (A/73/337).

4. At the 21st meeting, on 5 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs presented the report of the Secretary-General. The Under-Secretary-General for Field Support also made a statement.

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.8

5. At the 21st meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Finland, on behalf of Australia, Austria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine and Uruguay, introduced a draft

[1] A/C.4/73/SR.21 and A/C.4/73/SR.23.

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resolution entitled "Comprehensive review of special political missions" (A/C.4/73/L.8).

6. At the 23rd meeting, on 8 November, Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.8 without a vote (see para. 9).

III. Recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

9. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Comprehensive review of special political missions

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 67/123 of 18 December 2012, 68/85 of 11 December 2013, 69/95 of 5 December 2014, 70/92 of 9 December 2015, 71/100 of 6 December 2016 and 72/89 of 7 December 2017 on the comprehensive review of special political missions,

Reaffirming its commitment to respecting the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States,

Recalling the primary role of the United Nations and the respective roles and authority of the General Assembly and the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter, and recalling also in this context the contribution of regional and subregional arrangements and the important role they can play, as appropriate,

Recalling also the adoption by the General Assembly and the Security Council of substantively identical resolutions 70/262 and 2282 (2016) of 27 April 2016, further recalling the adoption of resolutions 72/276 and 2413 (2018) of 26 April 2018 on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, and recognizing in this regard the important role played by special political missions in the area of sustaining peace, as a goal and a process, where mandated,

Recognizing the important role of the special political missions as a flexible tool for the maintenance of international peace and security, including through contributions to a comprehensive approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace,

Noting that the relevant reforms, in particular of the peace and security pillar, are an opportunity to further advance and strengthen the work of special political missions in all mandated tasks, including in conflict prevention, and stressing that actions by the United Nations should support and complement, as appropriate, the conflict prevention roles of national Governments,

Encouraging enhanced exchanges of information, in an appropriate manner, among the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretariat, making use of the advisory role of the Peacebuilding Commission, when relevant, on overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions,

Reaffirming the principles of impartiality, consent of the parties, national ownership and national responsibility, and stressing the significance of the views of and dialogue with countries hosting special political missions,

Recalling the relevant reports on the review of arrangements for funding and backstopping special political missions,[1] which addressed the financial and administrative arrangements pertaining to such missions, recognizing that the fifth

[1] A/66/340 and A/66/7/Add.21.

Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters,

Recognizing, in this regard, the importance of adequately resourcing the peacebuilding components of relevant special political missions, including during mission transitions and drawdown, to support the stability and continuity of peacebuilding activities,

Stressing the need for the United Nations to continue to improve its capabilities in the pacific settlement of disputes, including mediation, conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Acknowledging the significant increase in the number and complexity of special political missions and the challenges faced by them,

Recognizing the need for system-wide coherence between special political missions and the United Nations system, and emphasizing the importance of close cooperation between special political missions, peacekeeping operations and United Nations country teams for maintaining sustainable peace, conflict prevention and conflict resolution,

Recognizing also the need for special political missions to operate under clear, credible and achievable mandates, including through the articulation of their goals and purposes, and the need to review their progress as stipulated in their respective mandates,

Stressing the need for, as relevant, enhanced coordination and cooperation between special political missions and concerned regional and subregional organizations, particularly leveraging ongoing strategic partnerships, to take concrete measures to strengthen mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution, and emphasizing the need to build and strengthen human and institutional capacities at the national, subregional and regional levels,

Recognizing the importance of efforts towards improving broad geographical representation, gender balance and expertise in the composition of all special political missions, and acknowledging the necessity of reducing the overall environmental footprint of relevant special political missions,

Recalling the relevant resolutions on women, peace and security, reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and recognizing the importance of the equal and effective participation and the full involvement of women at all levels, at all stages and in all aspects of the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and conflict resolution,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions on youth, peace and security, and affirming the important role that youth can play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts,

Noting the approval of the restructuring of the peace and security architecture within the Secretariat, particularly the endorsement of the establishment of the new Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Department of Peace Operations and of the new single, regional political-operational structure that will be shared between both Departments, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/262 C of 5 July 2018,

Noting also that the relevant reform efforts within the United Nations should ensure a more coordinated approach to strengthen the ability of special political

missions to deliver on their mandates and should contribute to ensuring enhanced accountability, coherence and effectiveness of special political missions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to resolution 72/89;[2]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to hold regular, inclusive and interactive dialogue on the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, and requests the Secretariat to reach out to Member States prior to the holding of such dialogue to ensure wide and meaningful participation;

3. *Respects* the purview of the mandate of special political missions, as stipulated in the respective relevant resolutions, recognizes the specificity of each mandate of such missions, and emphasizes the role of the General Assembly in discussing the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions;

4. *Acknowledges* the importance of strong coordination, coherence and cooperation of the Security Council and the General Assembly with the Peacebuilding Commission, and in this regard notes the intention and recent practice of the Security Council to regularly request, deliberate and draw upon the specific, strategic and targeted advice of the Commission, including to assist with the longer-term perspective required for sustaining peace being reflected in the formation, review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations and special political missions mandates , in line with General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016);

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-fourth session, a timely report on the implementation of the present resolution regarding the overall policy matters pertaining to special political missions, including efforts towards improving expertise and effectiveness, transparency, accountability, geographical representation, gender perspective and the equal participation of women, as well as youth participation, and in this regard also requests the Secretary-General to include relevant detailed information on these matters in the report;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in the aforementioned report information on the implementation of the reforms in the Organization in relation to special political missions;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of special political missions" and to consider the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General under that item.

[2] A/73/337.